

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter previously recited therein.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, and 12 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A block polymer ~~comprised of~~ comprising a polyalkenyl ether main chain comprising:

a first block segment having hydrophobicity;

a second block segment having an upper limit hydration temperature exceeding 70°C; and

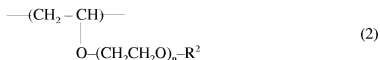
a third block segment having an ionic ~~property~~ property.

wherein the second block segment is represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A represents an unsubstituted or substituted polyvinyl group; B represents an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched alkylene group with 1 to 15 carbon atoms; m represents an integer from 2 to 50; B is optionally different; and R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₃, or -C₂H₅, and

wherein the block segment represented by general formula (1) is represented by the following general formula (2):



wherein n represents an integer from 2 to 50; and R² represents a hydrogen atom, ---CH₃, or ---C₂H₅,

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the third block segment is a block segment showing anionic property.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment is represented by general formula (3):



wherein R³ is selected from ~~a group~~ the group consisting of a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, ---(CH(R⁴)---CHR⁵)---O)---R⁶ and ---(CH₂)_k---(O)---R⁶ in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is

optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; p represents an integer from 1 to 18; k represents an integer from 1 to 36; l represents 0 or 1; R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represents represent a hydrogen atom or CH₃; R⁶ represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, -CHO, -CO-CH=CH₂, -CO-C(CH₃)=CH₂ or -CH₂COOR⁷ in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, F, Cl or Br, and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; and R⁷ represents an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Currently Amended) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment is ~~comprised of~~ comprises a single repeating unit structure.

7. (Original) A polymer-containing composition comprising the block polymer according to claim 1, a solvent or a dispersing medium, and a functional substance.

8. (Original) A polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is enclosed in the block polymer.

9. (Original) An ink composition comprising the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is colorant.

10. (Original) A liquid application method comprising the steps of:
preparing the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7; and
applying the polymer-containing composition to a medium.

11. (Original) A liquid application apparatus comprising:
a liquid application means which makes energy act on the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7 to apply the composition; and
a drive means which drives the liquid application means.

12. (Currently Amended) A head kit comprising:
a discharge head for discharging the ink composition according to claim 9, and a
container for containing the ink composition to be supplied to the discharge head.